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Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Portugal, Republic of Moldova and Senegal: draft resolution

Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,[1]

Recalling also the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, adopted by the General Assembly on 26 July 2011,[2]

Recalling further the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[3]

Welcoming the participation of young representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of youth, especially girls and young women, in many parts of the world has been negatively impacted by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socio-economic context,

[1] In paragraph 1 of its resolution 47/1, the Commission for Social Development reaffirmed the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond and the Supplement thereto as a unified set of guiding principles, to be referred to henceforth as the World Programme of Action for Youth.

[2] See resolution 65/312.

[3] Resolution 63/303, annex.

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Recognizing the complex character of the current global food crisis and ongoing food insecurity as a combination of several major factors, both structural and conjunctural, which is also negatively affected by, inter alia, environmental degradation, drought and desertification, global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of the necessary technology, and recognizing also that a strong commitment from national Governments and the international community as a whole is required to confront the major threats to food security and to ensure that policies in the area of agriculture do not distort trade and worsen the food crisis,

1. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth;[4]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding";[5]

3. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth",[6] and welcomes the recent increased collaboration among the United Nations entities in the area of youth development;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the economic and financial crisis, as well as challenges brought about by the food and energy crisis and by climate change;

5. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities that deal with responding to the current financial and economic crisis;

6. *Also urges* Member States to specifically address youth development in their economic and financial recovery measures as a response to global financial and economic crises by emphasizing youth employment, promoting volunteerism and the development of formal, informal and non-formal educational and training systems in line with the needs of young people and their societies;

7. *Stresses* the potential of information and communications technology to improve the quality of life of young people in order to enable them to overcome the adverse impacts of the current crises and calls upon Member States to ensure universal, non-discriminatory, equitable, safe and affordable access to information and communications technology, especially in schools and public places, and to remove the barriers to bridging the digital divide, including through transfer of technology and international cooperation, as well as to promote the development of locally relevant content and implement measures to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to use information and communications technology appropriately and safely;

8. *Recognizes* that promoting full employment and decent work as well as entrepreneurship also requires investing in education, training and skills development for women and men, and girls and boys, strengthening social protection and health systems and applying labour standards;

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[4] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[5] A/66/129.

[6] A/66/61-E/2001/3.

9. *Urges* Member States to address the situation of young women and girls as well as gender stereotypes which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women that are preclusive of social development by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

10. *Recognizes* the adverse impact of the economic and financial crises on the quality of life and health of young people, and in this regard encourages Member States to promote health education and health literacy among youth, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes in and out of schools and through public campaigns, as well as to increase the access of youth to affordable, safe and effective health care;

11. *Urges* Member States, in order to address the social impacts of the crises, to increase efforts to improve the quality of education and promote universal access to education, particularly for young women, out-of-school youth, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth migrants and youth living with HIV and affected by AIDS, without discrimination on any basis, to ensure that they can acquire the knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values needed, including by appropriate access to scholarships and other mobility programmes, non-formal education and technical and vocational education and training;

12. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to consider establishing a national youth delegate programme, whereby Member States are represented by young delegates on a continuing basis during relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process which ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

13. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographic balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the World Youth Report, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

14. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Youth within the existing resources of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs so as to meet the increasing demands on the Programme;

15. *Requests* that United Nations entities enhance their coordination and intensify efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development through, inter alia, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon the United Nations entities and relevant partners to develop additional measures to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society.